

PRESS RELEASE

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FORMER LAC COURTE OREILLES LATIN KING LEADER SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS IN PRISON

Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Donald K. Fairbanks, DOB 5/28/80, formerly of the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation (LCO) near Hayward, Wisconsin, was sentenced today in U.S. District Court in Madison to 20 years in prison without parole. Fairbanks previously pleaded guilty to a charge that he assisted others in using and maintaining a crack house for the manufacturing and sell of crack cocaine on the LCO Reservation; he also pleaded guilty to distributing crack cocaine in May 2003.

From approximately Spring 2000 through the early Summer of 2003, Fairbanks was an active member of the Latin King gang at LCO. For a portion of 2000, he was the "Caccique" - the treasurer and second-in-command of the gang. Co-conspirators John and Candace Radermacher rented the home of Yvonne Dennis on the LCO Reservation from January 2001 to approximately the end of October 2002 to cook, package, and sell crack cocaine. The Radermachers paid Dennis in crack cocaine. Fairbanks assisted in this operation by selling crack cocaine and helping to package crack cocaine at the Dennis residence. The government's proof also established that Fairbanks sold crack cocaine and assisted others who were also selling crack cocaine on the LCO Reservation.

In sentencing Fairbanks, Chief Judge Barbara B. Crabb found that the conspiracy involved well in excess of 1.5 kilograms of crack cocaine; she also found that Fairbanks was aware that the gang was using guns in its drug business and also using juveniles to sell drugs at LCO.

Fairbanks is the 44th defendant sentenced to prison as a result of this long-term investigation being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation-Narcotics Bureau, and the Sawyer County Sheriff's Department. One remaining defendant--Genoveva Gonzalez--is set for trial on July 31; she has been charged with failing to appear as a witness at the December 2005 Latin King drug conspiracy trial. The prosecution of these cases has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorneys John W. Vaudreuil and Laura Przybylinski Finn.

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